



Best Practices 2000

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
MIDWEST EDITION

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<http://www.hud.gov/bestpractices.html>

Issue No. 1

Welcome to the first issue of **Best Practices 2000 – “the Midwest way.”** This is the first of our new monthly Best Practices newsletters specifically catering to the Midwest area of the United States. Just as the nationally-focused Best Practices 2000 newsletter highlights the 1999 “Best of the Best” top 100 best practices from across the country, this newsletter will share with you information about the FY 1999 “Simply the Best” award winners from the Midwest area. In each

monthly issue you can look forward to reading about the exemplary professional practices of housing and community development practitioners across the geographical area. Last year, we had a total of 23 award recipients, so we have a lot of interesting details to share with you – from specific information on the techniques used to establish the programs or projects, to news articles and



even photographs. We’ve listed all the 1999 “Best of the Best” and “Simply the Best” award recipients from the Midwest area in this

issue. There’s also a photo gallery of the “Simply the Best” winners receiving their awards at the Departmental Best Practices and Technical Assistance Symposium in Kansas City, Missouri, this past July.

In sharing with you these examples of innovation and creativity, we hope to raise the standard for housing and community development by learning from and building upon the successes of our partners. We hope you enjoy the newsletter and look forward to sharing these wonderful models of community success with you.

Rosanna Marquez, Secretary’s Representative Midwest

Congratulations To You, Our 1999 “Best of the Best” and 1999 “Simply The Best” Award Winners “You Make Your Community Partners Proud”

“Hats Off” To Our 1999 “Best of the Best” Award Winners

1. Storehouse, Chicago, IL
2. CDC Drug Immunization, Chicago, IL
3. MTO Hotline, Chicago, IL
4. Chicago Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities, Chicago, IL
5. Walgreens self-sufficiency, Chicago, IL
6. UIC - the Neighborhoods Initiative, Chicago, IL
7. Ginger Ridge Mutual Housing, IL
8. Sunnyfield Cooperative, IL
9. Blue Triangle Residence Hall, Indianapolis, IN

10. Fair Housing Flyers in Minneapolis Water Bills, Minneapolis, MN
11. Illusion Theatre: Justice in Housing Play, Minneapolis, MN
12. CommonBond Communities, Minneapolis, MN
13. Community Police Relations, Cincinnati, OH
14. Vera Court Revitalization, Madison, WI



Midwest “Simply The Best” winners

“Simply The Best” Winners

1. Section 8 Working Group, Chicago, IL
2. Diversity Inc., Chicago, IL
3. Scrap Mettle Soul, Chicago, IL
4. IDIS E-Mail, Lake County, IL
5. Ann Arbor Continuum of Care, Ann Arbor, MI
6. EZ-FIC, Detroit, MI
7. Faith Based Best Practice, Grand Rapids, MI
8. Oakland Housing Rehabilitation/ Access Database, Oakland County, MI
9. Front Door Revitalization

Simply the Best!



Rosanna Marquez, Secretary's Representative and Joe Martin, Diversity Inc.



**Rosanna Marquez,
Secretary's
Representative
and
Brenda Schneider,
EZ-FIC**



**Rosanna Marquez,
Secretary's
Representative
and IDIS E-Mail,
Dan Roos**

Diversity Inc.

Diversity, Inc., is a not-for-profit, municipally based housing organization with 35 members in Chicago's southern suburbs. The organization provides a number of services, including Fair Housing workshops; collaboration with the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association on housing policy; diversity training for local groups; and publication of a booklet entitled *Profits, Partnerships and Prosperity: The Building Blocks of Fair Housing Lending*. These efforts have resulted in the creation of community partnerships, and workshops have been successful and well attended.

Chicago, IL

Empowerment Zone Financial Institutions Consortium (EZ-FIC)

The EZ-FIC was formed to support the Detroit Empowerment Zone Application. The Detroit financial community made a commitment to lend The Detroit Empowerment Zone \$1.1 billion over a 10-year period. To date, the \$1.1 billion goal has been exceeded because the lending has contributed to new investments, capital improvements, expansions, and community and economic development in the Empowerment Zone.

Detroit, MI

IDIS E-mail

To create a means of communicating among users of HUD's Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS), David Robinson of the Lake County Illinois Planning Department created a low-cost email mailing list subscription service (listserv). More than 400 participants subscribe to the forum and submit questions via e-mail. The listserv has increased the efficiency and effectiveness of the IDIS system, HUD's disbursement and reporting tool for CPD formula grant Entitlement Communities.

Lake County, IL

Ann Arbor Continuum of Care

The Continuum of Care Planning Board resulted in a more open and inclusive process in both the identification of service gaps and the prioritization of needs. As a result of this collaboration, Washtenaw County received \$1,844,447 in HUD funding.

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Mobilizing the Faith-Based Community

The faith-based collaborative combines business, federal, state, and local governments and law enforcement agencies with the religious community in urban and rural areas in central and southeast Michigan. The purpose of the collaborative is to reach out to faith-based organizations that often are left out when applying for, and benefiting from, various funded enrichment programs. These efforts have resulted in a mailing list of more than 1,000 faith-based participants in the target area. In addition, partners in Jackson, Michigan, have been able to help 27 predominantly black churches join with local government and law enforcement to take over an abandoned school from drug dealers.

Grand Rapids, MI

Oakland Housing Rehabilitation/Access Database

The Oakland County Community Development Division administers a comprehensive and complex home improvement program that rehabilitates approximately 275 houses per year. To help staff oversee individual cases as well as allow management the opportunity to better monitor the overall program, data was compiled into the Oakland Housing Rehabilitation/Access Database. This database allows staff to determine the status of each case from the date the homeowner's application arrives to the day the case is completed.

Pontiac, MI

Scrap Mettle Soul

Scrap Mettle Soul is a unique theater experience group that empowers community residents, including homeless persons, to tell their stories. Members of the theater group spend all year in the community giving workshops designed to gather the stories of persons in the economically and racially diverse Uptown, a neighborhood of Chicago.

Chicago, IL



Rosanna Marquez, Secretary's Representative and Fred Washington, Faith Based Best Practice

*More
of the Best!*



Secretary's Representative Rosanna Marquez and Lana Vacha accepting for Front Door Revitalization

Rosanna Marquez, Secretary's Representative and Ed Lucas, UIC Neighborhood Initiative

Yes, I would like to be placed on the Building A Better Tomorrow, HUD's Best Practices and Technical Assistance Forum newsletter mailing list. (Please print) Send the form to the Newsletter Editor.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Fax _____

E-Mail _____



We are proud of your accomplishments in the Midwest area, and would like to share this information so that it can be replicated, making it possible to “Build A Better Tomorrow” for all.

Please help us do this by submitting articles for inclusion in your local newsletter using the following general guidelines:

1. Submit articles only on those “Simply The Best” winners listed on the 1st page of this newsletter.
2. Your submission should include:
 - Specific details on techniques used to establish the program/project (i.e., program mission, funding sources, marketing strategy, success rate, number of participants enrolled, pitfalls, number of full-time staff employed to carry out project, use of outside consultants/subcontractors, the need the activity will fill in the community) and any other information that may be used as a blueprint for replication.
 - Photographs of the facility or activity, local or national articles written on the project, and the program write-up submitted with your Best Practices nomination application. Please note: we are unable to return photographs, so please send copies. If you take photographs, please use black and white film (however, color photographs can be accepted).
 - A Best Practices Coordinator contact person, including telephone number and e-mail address.
 - All articles must be received no later than the first of each month, although, we welcome articles in advance. Articles must be submitted through your Secretary’s Representative or Senior Community Builder via their designated Best Practices Coordinator, or to the newsletter editor at the address listed below or via e-mail.

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